

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Applicant has placed the application in condition for allowance by traversing the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-5, 9, 13, and 16-33 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 19 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 19, 21, 22, 23, and 30-33 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action, at page two, rejected claims 1-5, 9, 13, and 16-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,742,905 to Pepe *et al.* (hereinafter "Pepe") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,559,860 to Mizikovsky (hereinafter "Mizikovsky") and U.S. Patent No. 6,633,630 to Owens *et al.* (hereinafter "Owens"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Amended independent claim 1 recites (emphasis added):

An e-mail server comprising:

an e-mail system configured to receive and to forward e-mail messages; and

an agent configured to compare a first characteristic of e-mail messages, received for a subscriber, to specific message characteristics

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provided by the subscriber and pre-stored on the e-mail server, to generate a message ID for an e-mail message that has a characteristic match, to send an alert message to the subscriber when the characteristic match is found, and to execute instructions for forwarding the e-mail message that has the characteristic match, *wherein the first characteristic is located in the e-mail messages in at least one of bodies of the e-mail messages and attachments of the e-mail messages*, the alert message includes the message ID, and the instructions are associated with the message ID and are received from the subscriber in response to the alert message.

Each of independent claims 5, 9, 13, and 19 has been amended in a similar manner. These features are supported throughout the specification of the present patent application and particularly at the paragraph from page 6, lines 25 to page 7, line 12 and at figures 1A, 1B, and 2.

None of Pepe, Mizikovsky, and Owens, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches, or suggests comparing a first characteristic to specific message characteristics provided by the subscriber and pre-stored on the server, wherein the first characteristic is located in at least one of bodies of the e-mail messages and attachments of the e-mail messages.

To the contrary, Pepe, at column 31, lines 34-52, recites:

This feature also allows the subscriber to predetermine the management of certain numbers. For an example, a subscriber may want to be notified in real time only if a calling party number matches that of an immediate family member, supervisor, or important client. In other cases, the subscriber may wish to have calls automatically rerouted to a default number, such as a voice mailbox or secretary. For a company which does business over a large geographic area, the subscriber may wish to have the phone call routed to different places based on the geographic origin of the call. For example, calls originating from New York or New Jersey may be routed to a sales representative for that area and calls originating from California are routed to a sales representative for that geographic area.

The call management feature allows the subscriber to predetermine call routing based on the time of day. For example, a subscriber may wish to have calls forwarded to a customer service staff during business hours and be personally notified of calls during non-business hours.

Similarly, Mizikovsky, at column 10, lines 31-53, recites:

While FIG. 3 schematically illustrates the format of an "alert with information" message transmitted on the forward voice channel in what has been referred to as an analog cellular telephone system, FIG. 4 schematically illustrates the format of an "alert with information" message that is transmitted on the forward digital traffic channel in a digital cellular telephone system. Here too, the message is transmitted as a succession of transmission frames comprising a packet 400, with each packet containing identifying data plus information words. As shown, the identifying data in a packet 400 includes message identifying bits 402, followed by bits 404 further identifying the type of alert, followed by useful message information 406. When packet 400 is included in an "alert with information" message, the message identifying bits 402 identify this message as an "alert with information" message. Bits 404 identify the type of "alert with information" message; and in the present example, the type of "alert with information" message is an incoming call with calling party identifying data. Word 406 includes a portion of that calling party identifying data, such as a plurality of digits included in the calling party telephone number, a plurality of alphanumeric characters that may be used to identify the calling party, etc.

Likewise, Owens, at column 11, lines 67-67, recites:

Referring to FIG. 8, when an e-mail message is received, the receiver has several immediate filter and forward options based on who sent the message (as determined by the originator's e-mail address.) Additional rules include keyword searches on subjects and priority/high importance messages:

Thus, in each of Pepe, Mizikovsky, and Owens, the characteristic that is compared to the pre-stored characteristic is located in the header of the message, not the body of the message or the attachment of the message.

Accordingly, each of independent claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 19 is patentable over Pepe in view of Mizikovsky and Owens. Furthermore, because each of claims 2-4, 16-18, 20-33 depends upon claims 1, 5, 9, 13, or 19 and because of the individual distinctive features of each of claims 2-4, 16-18, 20-33, each of these claims is also patentable over Pepe in view of Mizikovsky and Owens. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner

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Reply to Office Action of September 25, 2008

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reconsider claims 1-5, 9, 13, and 16-33, remove the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and pass these claims to allowance.

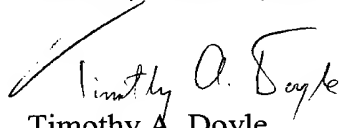
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 21 NOV 08

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